

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 31, 2009, the Advisory Actions dated December 17, 2009, and January 22, 2010, have been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. The amendments in the foregoing listing of claims are marked relative to the Amendment filed November 30, 2009, and indicated to be entered by the Advisory Action dated January 22, 2010. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claims 8, 9 and 17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the recited subject matter.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claim 3 to recite all limitations of allowable claim 17. Claim 1 is amended to recite corresponding method step limitations of claim 17. Applicants submit that these amendments are supported at least by the original claims. Applicants submit that, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1), the foregoing after-final amendments respond to a requirement of form expressly set forth in the Final Office Action and place the claims in condition for allowance as discussed below.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action indicated that indicated that claim 17 was allowable, but objected to claim 17 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended independent claim 3 to recite the limitations of dependent claim 17 including the subject matter of intervening dependent claims 8 and 9. Applicants submit that amended independent claim 3 and claims 4-7, 10-16, 19 and 20, depending thereto, are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Final Office Action regarding allowable claim 17 and request that the rejections to claims 3-7, 10-16, 19 and 20 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

Applicants have also amended independent method claim 1 to recite analogous method steps for the apparatus of allowable claim 17 and submit that amended claim 1 and claims 2 and 18, depending thereto, are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Final Office Action regarding allowable claim 17 and requests that the rejections to claims 1, 2 and 18 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that claims 1-7, 10-16 and 18-20 be allowed and this application passed to issue. Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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